

Remembering homecoming traditions

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For many Texas natives, homecoming holds a sacred space in all things football and school spirit. From the mums and garters of high school past to the face painting and corn-hole at college tailgates, homecoming is a long-held tradition for schools nationwide. It is an opportunity for schools to invite alums back to their alma mater to celebrate the legacies and traditions privy to the campus alongside fellow students. Though this occasion is celebrated throughout the U.S., everything tends to be bigger in Texas, and St. Edward's is no exception, commemorating over 93 years of the homecoming spirit.



Cadets, 1890-1946

The hilltop housed a military academy for many decades, first organized in the fall of 1890. Outside of their training, students could be seen at homecoming formals and sporting events.



Bonfire, 1957

In the 50s, the university hosted annual bonfires to ignite the homecoming spirit for sporting events and themed glamorous formals; both were once all the rage.

Football, 1901

St. Edward's was once home to a football team, originating between 1896 and 1901. The team brought home two Texas Conference titles in 1933 and 1939. Reports of the Tigers, St. Ed's high school team, can be found throughout the 40s.



Formals, 1965

Formals commemorating the St. Edward's homecoming pride were fairly popular from the mid-40s into the 90s. Elegant dresses and swank suits filled the dance hall in this photo of 1965's Spring Formal.



Casino Night, 1972

Some events that have stood the test of time like the beloved casino night, previously coined as Casino Royale and first appearing on the hilltop in 1968. Pictured right is a dealer in 1972.



“Everyone can find something in (the archives) that resonates with them,” Travis Williams, archivist and special collections librarian for Munday Library said.

through the golden years and beyond

Photos courtesy of: St. Edward's Archives and Special Collections & Emilio Casanova



Topper, 2001

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Halloween, 1986

The Halloween block party originated in 1949 and has remained a campus staple during the spooky homecoming season. Students can be seen strutting their costumes throughout the evening.



Topper Cup, 2015

Topper Cup first began in 2001 and has remained despite the years. The battleship cardboard boat regatta was once a Topper Cup staple, requiring students to band together to form cardboard boats to sail across the the once-filled university pool.



Homecoming, 2023

Much like anything else, traditions will ebb and flow through the river of time, and St. Edward's has seen many come and go over the years, but one thing continues to ring true: that blue and gold run deep and connect us all, regardless of how many decades come in between. Homecoming proves to be an all-encompassing celebration that ignites the pride we all share for our fellow alma mater.

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